

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 497: I was unavoidably detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

but I can say Mother,
I still love you

Mr. Speaker, Jean "Granny" Harper was a dear friend, and a wonderful human being. I am so truly saddened by her passing. She will be dearly missed.

MY LIFE IS WORTH IT CAMPAIGN

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, few words are more isolating and strike fear in the heart of a person or the parent of a child than cancer. 36,570 Tennesseans will be diagnosed with cancer this year. Thankfully, due to the work of thousands of scientists, death rates due to all cancers continue to decline. 14 million Americans who are cancer survivors will celebrate their birthdays this year. These stories of hope in the face of a devastating illness inspire us all.

But not everyone is surviving. It is sobering to think, in the U.S., someone dies because of cancer every 60 seconds. We must continue the fight against this devastating illness. We must examine all barriers to finding the cure for all cancers.

One such barrier is the time it takes for new therapies to reach the patient. Delays occur at the regulatory level and at the reimbursement level. The time it takes for a new drug to move from the laboratory to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval can take 10–15 years. Additional time is spent in determining the reimbursement level by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Recently, the FDA showed that it has the flexibility to greatly shorten the time line to approval. A meningitis vaccine, not previously available in the U.S., was granted FDA approval in a remarkably shortened timeline. The landmark decision came after meningitis outbreaks at U.S. colleges resulted in deaths and disability and a great public outcry.

The same flexibility needs to be shown to those who have cancer and are reaching for promising therapies that regulators have kept just out of their reach.

I am pleased that the grassroots organization, "My Life is Worth It," has begun an online campaign to collect one million signatures in support of several critical actions that can be taken to bring innovative cancer therapies to the patients that need them most.

On September 16th there will be a powerful display around the Capitol Reflecting Pool on the National Mall. The "Lights of Hope" sponsored by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network is estimated to involve over 15,000 committed advocates, serving as a beacon of hope to those who have been touched by cancer—while remembering those who have been lost. As we look out on the National Mall and see these lights, let Congress resolve to do all we can to ensure that those who need it most have the hope to survive and live a happy and fruitful life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 497 had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF STATE SENATOR DARREN SOTO

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Florida Senator Darren Soto. Born in New York in 1978, Darren Soto is of both Puerto Rican and Italian descent. He earned a bachelor's degree in Economics at Rutgers University and attended law school at George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Darren is a commercial and civil rights attorney proudly practicing law in Central Florida. He is an ardent defender of civil rights and is committed to rendering legal services pro bono to the community. In 2006, he was named class counsel in the federal class-action brought on behalf of Hispanic voters against the City of Kissimmee in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

Darren is also a former member of the Civil Service Board for the City of Orlando, and held the positions of Treasurer of the Orange County Democrats and Vice President of Communications for the Orange County Young Democrats (YD). He was also the co-host for YD's Speak Easy events, which provide a monthly forum for local and state leaders to speak to young voters.

Darren was elected to represent District 49 in the Florida House of Representatives in a special election in 2007, and was subsequently re-elected in 2008 and 2010. He has passed several important pieces of legislation including the Luis Rivera-Ortega Street Racing Act, the Firefighter Death Benefit Bill (inspired by the death of Volusia County firefighter John C. Curry), and the Bus Driver Notification Bill. He has also been a critical voice in defeating attempts to convert Florida to non-judicial foreclosures, stopping the split of the Florida Supreme Court, and blocking a proposed anti-Hispanic Arizona-style immigration law in Florida.

In 2012, Darren was elected to represent District 14 in the Florida Senate. He is currently serving as Vice Chair on the Judiciary Committee. Senator Soto also serves on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice, the Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government, the Community Affairs Committee, the Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee, and the Ethics and Elections Committee.

In May of 2013, Darren married Amanda Betlow, an Orange County school teacher.

I am honored to recognize Senator Darren Soto, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his leadership and contributions to the Central Florida community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEAN H. "GRANNY" HARPER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Jean H. Harper, who sadly passed away on August 28, 2014. "Granny," as Jean was affectionately called by loved ones, community members, and those in her church family, lived a life of service and selflessness.

Born in Avondale, North Carolina, on January 14, 1921, she was the fifth child of David and Alda Sims Hart's twelve children. Shortly after, her family relocated to Washington, DC, where she resided for the rest of her life.

Jean worked as a dietitian at Freedman's Hospital (the forerunner of Howard University Hospital) for 32 years. While working at the hospital, she met the love of her life, James "Jimmy" Harper, who she soon married before the birth of her sole child, her daughter Barbara Jean. In 1954, the family moved to their eventual life-home on Taylor Street NW., She remained a devoted servant of her community and missionary within her church, working actively up until her passing in the Pastor's Aide Ministry of the Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church.

However, Jean was most devoted to her family. She could always be found with Barbara, her grandchildren, great grandson, and other members of her extended family and close friends. She enjoyed traveling, cooking and socializing, but was renowned for being a problem solver for all who came into contact with her.

I had the privilege to know "Granny" through her daughter Barbara, a former staff member of my office. I was always delighted to check in with her over a birthday call or simply reminiscing about the old days. She was a comforting soul and devoted woman of God, who had time for anyone that needed her. While "Granny" is no longer with us, her spirit and loving memory will always live on.

In memory of her mother, Barbara recited a poem by Calan Booth at Jean's funeral entitled, "Mother," which I include, as it resonated with me deeply:

Without you Mother,
I would not be here,
for the start of my life
came from you Mother dear.
When I was a child
you sacrificed for me,
and shaped what I would be.
Now the years have gone
and I'm not always there,
but I know you still worry,
about my welfare
I can never pay for
all you've had to do,

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
MARK F. NEWSOME

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lieutenant Colonel Mark F. Newsome for his unrivaled dedication to the United States Army and this great nation. LTC Newsome recently completed a prestigious assignment with the Army's budget congressional liaison office and now serves as the Chief Financial Officer for Fort Belvoir Community Hospital.

A native of Prentiss, Mississippi, LTC Newsome enlisted in the Army in 1986 and completed the Army's rigorous basic training. He's served in an array of military assignments throughout his career. LTC Newsome led medical platoons with the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii and set a superior example while serving as Chief Financial Officer for various Army community hospitals across the nation. His leadership has positively impacted the soldiers and peers he served with over the years.

LTC Newsome is both a warrior and scholar who enhanced his education throughout his career. After a successful enlistment, he pursued the Army's Green-to-Gold scholarship with the Reserve Officer Training Corps at North Carolina A&T State University. LTC Newsome is a distinguished military graduate and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. He's also a graduate of the Defense Comptrollership Program at Syracuse University with a Masters of Business Administration and Masters of Public Administration.

It has been a pleasure to work with LTC Mark F. Newsome during his time as an Army budget congressional liaison where he inherited the tremendous responsibility of staffing Army senior leaders and briefing Congressional Members. These officers provide an invaluable service to both the military and Congress. They assist Members and staff in understanding the Army's policies, actions, operations, and requirements. Their firsthand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices. His efforts and relationships with Congress left an everlasting impression of professionalism and commitment.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending LTC Newsome for dedicating over two decades of service to his country. We wish Mark, his fiancée S. Kiayona, and his children D'Angeleau and D'Antoine all the best as they continue their journey with the United States Army.

HONORING TAKODA LUCKER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Takoda Lucker. Takoda is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 419, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Takoda has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Takoda has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Takoda has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Takoda Lucker for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MR. LUKE P. MARTIN,
JR.

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Mr. Luke P. Martin, Jr. who will be honored on Thursday, September 18, 2014 in New Bern, North Carolina for his rich and unique family history and his commitment to his community by having the day forever named in his honor.

Luke P. Martin, Jr. is 97 years old and the surviving son of an escaped slave who became one of the first men to enlist in the Union Army's First North Carolina Colored Volunteers during the Civil War. Mr. Martin's father, Private Luke Martin, Sr. escaped slavery in 1863 near Plymouth, North Carolina and found his way to New Bern where he joined what became the 35th Regiment of U.S. Colored Troops.

A statue of Private Martin, Sr. is currently displayed in the North Carolina Museum of History as an enduring reminder of the approximately 200,000 African Americans who fought during the Civil War. Private Martin's 1861 Springfield rifle and a Confederate Calvary sword acquired by Private Martin when he courageously fought and was wounded in the 1864 Battle of Olustee can also be found there. After fighting in the war, Private Martin settled in New Bern where he became the third pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church and was regarded as a well-respected civic leader. Private Martin died in 1917, the same year his son, Luke, Jr., was born.

Luke P. Martin, Jr. was born on July 11, 1917, making him one of Craven County's oldest living residents. He continues to live in the home built by his father in the 1890s. Mr. Martin was the lead Master Mason in the restoration of the historic Tryon Palace in the early 1950s, and supervised the construction and brickwork on more than fifty major buildings throughout the southeast. He taught vocational classes for over 20 years at Pamlico County High School putting his considerable talents into teaching others.

At 97 years old, Mr. Martin still works as a funeral assistant for Oscar's Mortuary, as he has since the business opened its doors in 1954. He and his late wife, Inez, reared seven children including their son Frederick, who was killed while serving our country in Vietnam on February 28, 1968. He is a lifelong member of St. John Missionary Baptist Church, where he holds the distinction of

being the congregation's oldest and longest-serving trustee, having served in that capacity for more than sixty years.

Mr. Speaker, Luke Martin has spent his life as an active and engaging member of his community. He has built upon the courageous sacrifices his father made so long ago, and I am happy to participate in the celebration of Luke P. Martin, Jr. Day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Luke P. Martin, Jr. and the Martin family for their contributions to the city of New Bern and our Union.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY MCCAULEY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Judy McCauley upon her retirement from the U.S. Small Business Administration as its West Virginia District Director. Judy has served as the state's District Director since 2004 and has worked diligently with West Virginia's small businesses providing lending assistance, government contracting assistance, business counseling and training, disaster assistance, international business opportunities and compliance. Judy also had oversight of the Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Center and SCORE Chapters.

Prior to her appointment, McCauley served as procurement center representative, commercial marketing representative, and contracting officer for SBA in western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, overseeing the release of procurement opportunities and contract awards.

She was recently appointed to the 2011–2012 Affiliate Leadership Council for the West Virginia High Technology Consortium Foundation and serves on the Board of Advisors for the Small Business Development Centers, West Virginia Export Council, Glenville State College Department of Business and Vision Shared Entrepreneurship Committee. McCauley serves on the SBA Administrator's Area Director/District Director Council and functions as the SBA point-of-contact for the West Virginia FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaisons and the West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters. She is actively involved in the statewide collegiate business plan competition, hosted by West Virginia University and is a recipient of the West Virginia Women in Business Champion Award.

McCauley recently served on the SBA Administrator's National Advisory Council, representing the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, and West Virginia. She served on the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Small Business Committee and the Regional Contracting Assistance Center Board of Advisors. McCauley was instrumental in the creation of West Virginia's premier federal procurement conference, "Teaming to Win", and served as chairman of the board, and conference director.

As a member of the Northern West Virginia Chapter of the National Contract Management Association (NCMA), McCauley served as chapter president and national director. She is a recipient of the chapter's "Award of Excellence," the national "Blanche Witte Award," a